

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
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R 231525Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 2275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, GR

SUBJECT: STRAUSS' ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH GREEK RIGHTISTS

1. OVER PAST THREE WEEKS FRG PRESS HAS GIVEN DESULTORY COVERAGE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT INVOLVEMENT OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND HIS PARTY WITH RIGHTISTS EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN GREECE HAS UPSET PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AND LED GOVT TO COMPLAIN TO FRG. SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES MATTICK (BERLIN) AND BAYERL (BAVARIA) HAVE RESURFACED THESE ALLEGATIONS IN PAST FEW DAYS.

2. IN ESSENCE, STRAUSS AND CSU ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE EXTENDED SUPPORT TO EXTREME RIGHTIST POLITICIANS WITH AIM OF WEAKENING KARAMANLIS' POSITION, SECURING GREECE'S RETURN TO FULL MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NATO, ENCOURAGING RESUMPTION OF GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS, AND REOPENING US BASES IN GREECE. KARAMANLIS IS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD HIS CLOSE ADVISOR, STATE SECRETARY FOR PRESS LAMBRIAS, WRITE TO FRG VOERMENT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT STRAUSS' ACTIVITY.

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3. CSU HAS COUNTERATTACKED ON SEVERAL FRONTS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8, STRAUSS REJECTED THESE ALLEGATIONS, DECLARING THAT HE AND KARAMANLIS ARE FRIENDS OF LONGSTANDING AND ASSERTING THAT CSU SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF KARAMANLIS AND HIS PARTY TO REESTABLISH DEMOCRACY IN GREECE. ON SEPTEMBER 22, CSU SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT DEPUTY FRG SPOKESMAN GRUNEWALD WAS COMPELLED TO ADMIT THAT GOG HAD NOT RPT NOT COMPLAINED TO FRG ABOUT STRAUSS. ON PREVIOUS DAY CSU SPOKESMAN HAD ACCUSED GREEK COMMUNISTS OF CONCOCTING THESE ALLEGATIONS AS "SUBSTITUTE FOR COLLAPSE OF LOCKHEED CAMPAIGN."

4. COMMENT: STRAUSS AND CSU INTERPRET THESE ALLEGATIONS AS PART OF CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY STRAUSS AS DANGEROUS RIGHT RADICAL. CSU RESPONSE, TO THESE CHARGES SUGGESTS APPREHENSION ABOUT THEIR POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SWING-VOTERS.BETTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, MUCKRAKING, POPULAR SUPPORT, EXTREMISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MUNICH02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760361-0155
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760928/aaaaaxtr.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAUSS' ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH GREEK RIGHTISTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GE, GR, CSU, (STRAUSS, FRANZ JOSEF), (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006